

Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Tea, SD 57064
Return Service Requested



Dec 8 - 6:30pm Men Sing, Bells Ring, Choirs Sing
Dec 11 – 6:30 pm Men Sing, Bells Ring, Choirs Sing
Dec 15 – 10:30am Sunday School Christmas program
Dec 24 - 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Candlelight Services

Dear friends in Christ,

Several years ago, I heard a sermon concerning the famous story of Jesus blessing the children. The preacher reminded us of that time when the studious adults were gathered around Jesus to hear Jesus teach. Abruptly, the lesson was interrupted by a bunch of parents dragging along their noisy children. The parents brought the kids right up to Jesus' lap and were promptly yelled at by the disciples. Actually, the story says the disciples "spoke sternly" to the parents, but you get the point. You probably remember the twist when Jesus puts the disciples in their places by letting the children come to him, blessing them, and saying the kingdom of heaven belongs to children such as these.

In recounting the story, the preacher said that the translation for "little children" could also be translated as "little ones." This alternate translation would include not only the children but also the adults who were hearing Jesus teach for the first time, the poor, or anyone normally considered the "lowly" ones. The point of the sermon was that at any given time any of us could be the little one in need of Jesus' blessing. All that is necessary is a fresh ear to the story.

I was reminded of that sermon this morning as I read the lyrics to the song, Holy Child within the Manger. The song goes like this:

Once again, we tell the story –
How your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory
Wore an image like our own.
Come enlighten with your wisdom,
Come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
Kindle ev'ry land and race.

The phrase "Once again we tell the story" struck me as I thought about how we often mistakenly make Christmas a holiday that is primarily for children. Of course, children love the story, and adults will delight as the smallest of them experience the nativity for the first time. Yet, for those of us who have heard and told the story many times, the "once again" is for us as well.

To be one of Jesus' little ones has nothing to do with age. So, for you who remember many Christmases past, I remind you that we still can enter this Christmas brand new. Once again, we gather as unruly children. No fountain of youth or facelift is required, only an ear for an old tune sung in a new key. May the kingdom of heaven indeed belong to a bunch of little ones – little ones like us.

Peace and best wishes, Pastor Tom Opoien

Milestone Moment

Our 5th graders completed 3 classes to prepare for the First Communion, which was held November 24. Congratulations to our 5th graders.

There is no Milestone for December. In January, our Kindergartners will be learning about prayer.

Keep all our youth at Trinity in prayer as we come to the end of our calendar year. We pray the new year will bring more joy and more love to their lives.

WE ARE.....GOD'S KIDS!

Thank you to Kristi McKinney and the Youth and Family Board for overseeing Milestone Ministry.



Giving Tree

You may have noticed the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space. It is full of colorful tags with various needs/wishes on them. If you would like to participate, please do the following

- ◆ Take a tag and purchase the gift
- ◆ Return it to the tree, unwrapped
- ◆ Make sure the tag is taped to the gift

Thank you for your generosity in helping our Tea Area Food Pantry friends.

December Music

We are blessed at Trinity with many musicians and singers. Come enjoy the beautiful music and message.

- ◆ **December 8 and 11 - Bells Ring, Voices Sing 6:30 pm**
Men's Chorus, Bell Choir, Mixed Choir, Senior High Choir, KFC band
- ◆ **December 15 - Sunday School program 10:30 worship service**
***NEW* CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**
- ◆ **Tuesday, December 24 - 3:30pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm**

Christmas Around the World

In November, our Sunday school children celebrated "Christmas Around the World"

